



Town of Salem

Department of Emergency Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2022

SUBJECT: - Home COVID-19 Test Kits AND MASK UPDATE

The State of Connecticut **has not** provided Salem with enough At-Home Rapid COVID-19 Test Kits for public distribution as promised.

The State of Connecticut **has not** provided Salem with any N95 Masks for public distribution as promised.

The State of Connecticut **has not** directly provided Salem School District with Rapid COVID-19 Test Kits as promised.

On New Years Eve at 10:00 PM, two members of the CT Army National Guard delivered slightly over 200 At-Home Rapid COVID-19 Test Kits to Emergency Management Director Mike Bednarz and me at Town Hall. With short notice, Mike's wife and daughter helped us unload the kits.

On New Year's Eve, on New Year's Day and continuing Sunday and Monday, Mike and I began distributing the small amount of Rapid COVID-19 Test Kits to Salem School, Salem Emergency Responders; Firefighters and Ambulance Crew Members and Critical Town Staff. We also provided some to local businesses and eateries having high public traffic. We were not provided us with enough Test Kits for public distribution.

Salem has been promised to receive a small amount of at-home rapid COVID-19 test kits and N95 Masks by Governor Lamont, but the timing is unknown. If and when available, we will distribute to the public.

I want to thank our Emergency Services and Emergency Management Staff, our Volunteer Fire Departments and Town Hall Staff for preparing a short-notice, distribution plan.


I have requested state officials provide Salem residents with additional At-Home Rapid COVID-19 Test Kits.

I have also requested state officials provide Salem residents with N95 protective masks.

FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF MASKS AND TEST KITS IS CONTINGENT ON THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS ABILITY TO SECURE THEM AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO OUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM.

UPDATES WILL BE POSTED ON THIS SITE. IF THIS SITE IS NOT UPDATED, THERE IS NO NEW INFORMATION.

Respectfully;


Ed Chmielewski
First Selectman